



Meeting Summary
September 30, 2015

Attendance

Panel Members: Phyllis Cook, Chair
Mohammad Saleem, Vice Chair
Hank Alinger
Phillips Engelke
Rob Hollis
Don Taylor

DPZ Staff: Valdis Lazdins, Raj Kudchadkar, Dace Blaumanis, Lisa Kenney

Elementary School #42, Oxford Square - #15-16

Owner/Developer: Board of Education of Howard County
Architect: TCA Architects, LLC
Engineer: Fisher, Collins & Carter, Inc.

1. Call to Order – DAP Chair Phyllis Cook opened the meeting at 7:30 pm, calling for introductions of the Panel, staff and project team.

2. Review of Elementary School #42, Oxford Square #15-16 – Robyn Toth, Principal Architect for this project, TCA Architects, gave an overview of the project. This Howard County elementary school is on an eight-acre site, adjacent to the new Thomas Viaduct Middle School, all part of the Oxford Square TOD development. The two-story school is designed to accommodate 788 students. The school design will pursue a LEED gold certification as well as Howard County's Green Neighborhood elements. Ms. Toth noted that this school has 40% less parking than previous iterations of this school prototype. She also noted the numerous school system's and Oxford Square developer's reviews this project has already received. Ms. Toth showed a short video giving the perception of walking down Banbury Drive approaching the elementary school.

Matthew Fitzsimmons, Architect at Hord Coplan Macht, the Oxford Square designers, said it was always intended for this school to be a civic component. This school's entrance aligns with the middle school's entrance and places the school opposite the Barn, which is centered on the open space across Banbury Drive. The Barn will have community space.

Daniel Lubeley, Manager of Design and Presconstruction Services, Howard County Public School System, explained that because of time constraints, the school system chose this school prototype (from 2003) for this site. He said the overall layout is now set but that some aspects of the exterior architectural design may still be refined.

Pursuant to each motion duly made and seconded, DAP adopted the following recommendations for the project. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Director, Department of Planning and Zoning.

DAP Vice Chair Mohammad Saleem, offered the following motion:

1. "That the Applicant consider revisiting the elevations of the school, stepping away from the traditional look, to give more freshness to the design. An example is the front, long, horizontal canopy could become a horizontal flat roof, with some more contemporary detail, and also could be related to the front entry canopy which could stick out more. Also, look at how to give more punch to the design by introducing a variety of windows for the north and south orientation." Seconded by P. Cook.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

DAP Chair Phyllis Cook offered the following motion:

2. "That the cornices at the top of the building be re-thought into a more contemporary top of building." Seconded by M. Saleem.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

DAP member Rob Hollis offered the following motion:

3. "That the Applicant bring the elevations back for further review." Seconded by M. Saleem.

Vote: 6-0 to approve.

DAP member Hank Alinger offered the following motions:

4. "That the Applicant consider strengthening the streetscape on Banbury Drive with additional street trees and look at extending the brick wall to get more continuity along the street." Seconded by R. Hollis.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

5. "That the Applicant consider reinforcing the drop-off area to be a much wider section in front of the building to clarify the pedestrian nature of the space and crossing." Seconded by D. Taylor.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

6. "That the Applicant consider pedestrian crossings from the residential development to the west across the bio-retention area in one or more places." Seconded by R. Hollis.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

7. "That the Applicant consider reinforcing and expanding the crosswalk area from the adjacent middle school to make that clear of the bus parking." Seconded by P. Cook.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

DAP Member Don Taylor offered the following motion:

8. "That the Applicant also consider the location of the sidewalk and crosswalks relative to the connection between the Barn and the plaza, in some configuration that works better than what is currently shown." Seconded by P. Engelke.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

DAP Chair Phyllis Cook offered the following motion:

9. "That between the kindergarten play area and the bus parking area there be reinforced greenery, such as trees to promote a buffer there from the idling buses." Seconded by M. Saleem.

Vote 6-0 to approve.

3. Call to Adjourn – DAP Chair Phyllis Cook adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.